

CSREES SMALL FARM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS  
April 2003

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension  
Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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CSREES SMALL FARM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS is  
electronically published monthly. Special alert issues will be  
available as events warrant.

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This is the twenty-first issue of an electronic resource tool  
for State Small Farm Program Coordinators and others  
to share small farm relevant information with our  
stakeholders at the Land-Grant University System.

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HIGHLIGHTS INDEX                      April 30, 2003

.....KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS  
.....Agriculture Secretary Veneman Additional Assistance  
for Drought-Stricken Livestock Producers  
.....President Bush's Tax Plan Includes Significant Savings  
for Farm Families  
.....Agriculture Secretary Veneman Announces \$6.5 Million  
in Rural Development Assistance During Visit to Tennessee  
.....Agriculture Secretary Veneman Marks Earth Day by  
Announcing Funds for Conservation and Water Development  
.....COMMUNICATION NETWORK  
.....Directory & Guide Booklet  
.....MEETINGS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES  
.....Farm Field Day sponsored by The Rodale  
Institute & Future Harvest  
.....Transitioning to Organic Vegetable Production  
Field Day  
.....Direct Marketing Opportunities for Local  
Agricultural Products Field Day  
.....USDA Small Farm Working Group  
.....GRANTS & OPPORTUNITIES  
.....Organic Farming Research Foundation  
.....Cornell's Small Farms Grants Program:  
Fostering "Bottom-Up" Extension Education  
.....UPCOMING EVENTS  
.....Northeast Llama Showcase  
.....Financial Management & Crop Insurance  
Training for Ag Professionals Who Work  
With Under-Served Producers

.....Organic Conference & Trade Show  
.....Farm Festival  
.....North America's All-Organic Conference  
and Trade Show  
.....Briefing on the 2002 Farm Bill &  
USDA Programs and Services  
.....Cheshire Forestry & Farm Expo  
.....3rd Annual Sustainable Hog Farming Summit  
.....USDA Outreach for Small Farmers &  
Ranchers (Promotion of USDA Programs &  
Services  
.....Farm Day/Small Farm Conference  
.....Mid Atlantic Dairy/Farm Business  
Extension Educator Conference  
.....Agricultural Risk Management Education  
Training Workshop  
.....Michael & Sheri Seipel Farm Tour  
.....Western Canada Farm Progress  
.....Farm Progress Hay Expo  
.....National Farm Transition Network  
Conference  
.....Polyface Farm Intensive Discovery Seminars  
.....Organic Farm Tour  
.....FEEDBACK

#### KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Agriculture Secretary Veneman Additional Assistance  
for Drought-Stricken Livestock Producers.  
On April 8, 2003, Agriculture Secretary  
Ann M. Veneman announced that the U.S.  
Department of Agriculture will provide surplus  
USDA stocks of non-fat dry milk to livestock  
producers in areas hardest hit by continuing  
drought. For more information, see  
<http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/04/0113.htm>.

President Bush's Tax Plan Includes Significant Savings  
for Farm Families.  
On April 15, 2003, Farm Families will reap significant tax  
savings under President Bush's Jobs and Economic Growth  
Plan. For more information, see  
<http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/04/0121.htm>.

Agriculture Secretary Veneman Announces \$6.5 Million  
in Rural Development Assistance During Visit to Tennessee.  
On April 16, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman  
announced \$6.5 million in loans and grants to help business,  
community services and water and waste water infrastructure  
needs throughout rural Tennessee during a round table with  
area farmers. For more information, see  
<http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/04/0124.htm>.

Agriculture Secretary Veneman Marks Earth Day by  
Announcing Funds for Conservation and Water Development.  
On April 22, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman

announced several conservation programs to assist farmers and ranchers to conserve natural resources. For more, see <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/04/0132.htm>.

#### COMMUNICATION NETWORK

The 2003 edition of The Evener Work Horse, Mule & Oxen Directory and Guide, now in its 15th year, lists draft animal resources throughout North America in 37 categories from "Auctions & Sales" to Videotapes. The cost is \$8.00. To order, contact Rural Heritage, 281 Dean Ridge Lane, Gainesboro, TN 38562, 931-268-0655, <http://www.ruralheritage.com>.

#### MEETINGS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Farm Field Day sponsored by The Rodale Institute & Future Harvest. More than 100 people attended the event that focused on the transition of grain farms to organic production. As Paul Gunther, extension agent for Queen Ann County mentioned, the farmers present represented more than 12,000 acres of grains in production in the Chesapeake Bay area. The speakers addressed issues that a farmer can expect to encounter in the organic transitioning process. In the afternoon, the participants took a tour of the Elliot Farm and took part in a questions and answers session with Eugene Elliot, the host farmer. Organic grain production makes economic sense and benefits the farmer and the environment alike. Conventional and organic farmers are looking to increase their returns through organic farming strategies. Contact: The Rodale Institute at 610-683-1481 or Maria Pop via e-mail at: [maria.pop@rodaleinst.org](mailto:maria.pop@rodaleinst.org).

On June 20, 2003 - The Muth Family Farm, Williamstown, NJ Transitioning to Organic Vegetable Production Field Day. Contact: The Rodale Institute at 610-683-1481 or Maria Pop via e-mail at: [maria.pop@rodaleinst.org](mailto:maria.pop@rodaleinst.org).

On July 18, 2003 - The Kretschmann Farm, Rochester, PA Direct Marketing Opportunities for Local Agricultural Products Field Day. Contact: The Rodale Institute at 610-683-1481 or Maria Pop via e-mail at: [maria.pop@rodaleinst.org](mailto:maria.pop@rodaleinst.org).

USDA Small Farm Working Group. On Thursday, May 15, 2003, the USDA Small Farm Working Group will hold its spring quarterly meeting in Washington, D.C. Presentations will be on Agricultural Alternatives by Jayson Harper from Penn State; Valerie Berton of the SARE Program, and Tobey Williamson

from the American Farmland Trust in Washington, D.C.  
If you would like to share your program endeavors at any  
of our upcoming quarterly meetings, please contact Denis  
Ebodaghe at 202-401-4385 or via e-mail at:  
debodaghe@csrees.usda.gov.

#### GRANTS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Organic Farming Research Foundation.  
Proposal submission deadline for research grants  
on organic farming and food systems from Organic  
Farming Research Foundation are due by July 15, 2003.  
For more information, see  
<http://www.ofrf.org/research/application.html> or call  
831-426-6606.

Cornell's Small Farms Grants Program:  
Fostering "Bottom-Up" Extension Education.  
For more information, see  
<http://www1smallfarms.cornell.edu>. Click on  
"Cornell Small Farms Efforts", then click on  
"Grants Program".

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2-4, 2003 - West Springfield, MA  
Northeast Llama Showcase.  
For more information, see  
[www.northeastllamashowcase.com](http://www.northeastllamashowcase.com) or  
call 212-924-9847.

May 7-9, 2003 - Albuquerque, NM  
Financial Management & Crop Insurance  
Training for Ag Professionals Who Work  
With Under-Served Producers.  
The training will equip you to provide business  
management and crop insurance assistance  
to under-served producers and give you high  
quality tools and materials. Contact:  
Dr. Albert Essel at 804-524-5871 or  
via e-mail at: [aessel@vsu.edu](mailto:aessel@vsu.edu).

May 8-11, 2003 - Austin, TX  
Organic Conference & Trade Show.  
For more information, see  
[www.ota.com/tradeshow/index.html](http://www.ota.com/tradeshow/index.html) or  
call 413-774-7511.

May 9-10, 2003 - Cabool, MO  
Farm Festival.  
Contact: 417-962-3002.

May 14-17, 2003 - Austin Convention Center,  
Austin, TX  
North America's All-Organic Conference

and Trade Show.  
For more information, see  
[www.atoexpo.com](http://www.atoexpo.com) or call 413-774-7511.

May 17, 2003 - South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, SC  
Briefing on the 2002 Farm Bill & USDA Programs and Services.  
A briefing designed to connect USDA customers to agency  
programs and services while highlighting changes and new  
provisions in the 2002 Farm Bill. Special emphasis will be  
placed on how USDA can better serve non-traditional and  
traditionally underserved customers. There is no cost to attend.  
For more information:, see <http://www.usda.gov/da/briefing.htm>  
or call 1-800-880-4183.

June 1-2, 2003 - Swanzey, NH  
Cheshire Forestry & Farm Expo.  
Contact: 603-357-4740.

June 6-7, 2003 - Gettysburg, PA  
3rd Annual Sustainable Hog Farming Summit.  
This event will feature a forum on sustainable  
solutions - both on the farm and in the marketplace -  
as well as panels focusing on various social, environmental,  
and community concerns arising from industrial livestock.  
For more information, see  
<http://www.waterkeeper.org/mainarticledetails.aspx?>

June 7, 2003 - Oklahoma City, OK  
USDA Outreach for Small Farmers &  
Ranchers (Promotion of USDA Programs &  
Services).  
Contact: Willard Tillman at 405-522-8895  
or via e-mail at: [wtillman@oda.state.ok.us](mailto:wtillman@oda.state.ok.us).

June 7, 2003 - Buffalo, MO  
Farm Day/Small Farm Conference.  
Contact: 417-345-7358.

June 11-13, 2003 - Wilkes Barre, PA  
Mid Atlantic Dairy/Farm Business  
Extension Educator Conference.  
Contact: Beth Claypoole via e-mail at  
[eac9@cornell.edu](mailto:eac9@cornell.edu).

June 16-17, 2003 - Normal, AL  
Agricultural Risk Management Education  
Training Workshop.  
This workshop will focus on targeting county  
extension agents and farm management specialists  
working with small and limited resource  
agricultural producers in 21 North Alabama  
counties. Contact: Dr. Duncan M. Chembezi  
at 1-866-858-4970 or via e-mail at [dchembezi@aamu.edu](mailto:dchembezi@aamu.edu).

June 19, 2003 - Callo, MO  
Michael & Sheri Seipel Farm Tour.  
Contact: 660-768-5744.

June 19-21, 2003 - Saskatchewan, Canada  
Western Canada Farm Progress.  
For more information, see  
<http://www.wcfps.com> or call 1-888-734-3975.

June 26, 2003 - Alleman, IA  
Farm Progress Hay Expo.  
For more information, see  
<http://www.hayexpo.com> or call 630-462-2956.

June 27-30, 2003 - Essex, VT  
National Farm Transition Network Conference.  
Contact: Debra Heleba at 802-656-0233 or via  
e-mail at [debra.helba@uvm.edu](mailto:debra.helba@uvm.edu).

July 11-12, 2003 - Swoope, GA  
Polyface Farm Intensive Discovery Seminars.  
This is a two-day seminar at the Joel Salatin family farm.  
For more information, see  
<http://www.acresusa.com/events/events.htm>. or  
call 1-800-355-5313.

July 14, 2003 - The Land Connection, Woodford  
County, IL  
Organic Farm Tour.  
Terra Brockman will host a tour of several area farms  
showcasing creative organic farming. For more  
information, see <http://www.thelandconnection.org>.  
Cost: \$10 per person.

FEEDBACK: CSREES Small Farm Program Highlights  
is a dialogue resource tool primarily for State Small Farm  
Program Coordinators and others who work with the  
small farmers and ranchers. If you have  
questions, information to share, comments, or  
interest in subscribing or unsubscribing, send to  
[asimon@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:asimon@csrees.usda.gov).

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